

I. vittifrons Kbm. — Mr. Collins has this species from Bookham Common and Box Hill, both in Surrey, a county not included among those given for it by Le Quesne; again taken on various occasions. A rather rare and certainly very local species not so far met with by me, attached to field maple which I have worked for it in Windsor Park, for instance, but in vain. Its presence in my area, however, is not impossible; the host-tree, though scarce here, occurs at Shooters Hill and may yet, in time, yield the insect.

During the past decade I was able to record as many as 11 species of these leaf-hoppers from the Blackheath/Kidbrooke/Shooters Hill area of N.W. Kent (Allen, 1964). If the latter is now extended eastward to Abbey Wood, the addition of *I. poecilus* and *I. elegans* brings up the total to 13 species, which, I venture to think, compares very favourably (despite its situation in the suburbs of London) with any other published list for an area of similar extent anywhere in these islands. Jennings (1909) records having encountered the same number of species in the autumn of 1908, but his captures were from a vastly wider area.

References

- Allen, A. A., 1964. The genus *Idiocerus* (Hem.-Hom., Cicadellidae) in suburban North-west Kent. *Ent. Rec.*, 76: 55-57.
 Edwards, J., 1896. *The Hemiptera-Homoptera of the British Islands*. London.
 Jennings, F. B., 1909. *Idioceri* met with in August and September, 1908. *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 45: 89-90.
 Le Quesne, W. J., 1965. Hemiptera-Homoptera: Cicadomorpha (part). *Handb. Ident. Brit. Insects*, 2 (2a).

WINTER ACTIVITY. — I was surprised to come across three instar larvae of *Pieris brassicae* and two of *P. rapae* in a torpid state, but otherwise quite healthy, on the brussel sprout plants in my garden (at Milton of Capsie, Stirlingshire) on 28th December, 1977.

Larvae of both species were too abundant to be tolerated during late summer, and as the plants were suffering, were sprayed with insecticide. Even so, this left fair numbers of *brassicae* larvae, and about equal numbers of both species on nasturtium plants.

During late autumn the first frosts killed off the annual plants; for periods of several days the BBC weather bulletin (conditions as at 05.00 hrs.) reported temperatures in Glasgow below freezing (generally between -6 and -3°C .). The presence of frass on the plants, most of it appearing quite fresh, indicates that the larvae have been active between the very cold spells, and shows that at least a percentage of the "Cabbage White" larvae are able to survive periods of frost. — J. COOTER, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, G3 8AG.